Post offices in rented house in Tamil Nadu

518. SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many main post offices are housed in rented premises in Tamil Nadu State;

(b) the steps taken to build own premises for such post offices;

(c) whether there are also vacant Government land lying unutilised for several years in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the steps taken to dispose these lands to build post offices in their own land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 32 Head Post Offices are housed in rented premises in Tamil Nadu State.

(b) Priority for acquiring land and construction of buildings for these Post Offices are being taken up in a phased manner depending on the availability of funds.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The construction of Post Offices is being taken up in a phased manner in the vacant plots of land depending on the availability of funds.

Transfer of Hindustan Cables Limited to Ministry of Communications

519. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestion of Minister of Industry to transfer the administrative control of Hindustan Cables Ltd. to Ministry of Communications is being considered; and

(b) if so, by when the formalities for transfer will be completed and what is the latest position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINPRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) After due consideration, DOT has informed the Department of Heavy Industry that the eompany (HCL) is suffering from certain basic problems like excessive workforce, management I problems, liquidity crunch ete. and certain radical measures like financial restructuring, reduction of staff strength to optimal level, maintenance of fiscal discipline as well as diversification into other areas of production are required. The mere transfer of this unit to the Department of Telecom is not going to solve these basic problems. The remedy docs not lie in the transfer of the undertaking from one ministry to another.

(b) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

Differences between Telephone Regulatory Authority and DOT

520. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there exist differences between the Telephone Regulatory Authority and the Department of Telecommunication on various outstanding issues like the licence fee structure for basic and cellular telephone operators, grant of licences for internet service, etc.;

(b) if so, the main issues on which differences exist; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to resolve these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) There are no differences between the Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) and the Department of Telecommunications on the issue of licence fee structure for basic and cellular telephone operators and grant of licences for Internet services.